

Application Number 09/876,432
Response to Office Action mailed January 29, 2008

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of interrogating RFID tags associated with items of interest, comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting at least two categories of items using a user interface associated with an RFID reader;
- (b) after selecting at least two categories, using the RFID reader to interrogate at least one RFID tag associated with an item of interest to obtain information associated with the item of interest, wherein the item of interest is not currently associated with the categories selected in step (a); and
- (c) accessing a database stored in memory of a removable flash memory card of the RFID reader to retrieve information necessary to categorize each RFID-tagged item based on the information obtained from the RFID tag;
- (d) ~~(e)~~ thereafter using the RFID reader to automatically categorize the information obtained in step (b) with at least one of the categories selected in step (a), and wherein information necessary to categorize each RFID-tagged item may be obtained from the RFID tag itself; and
- (e) ~~(d)~~ saving the categorized information obtained in step (d) ~~(e)~~ in the [[a]] database.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the categories are mutually exclusive.

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Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the categories are not mutually exclusive.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein one category describes whether an item is present in a storage area.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the categories describe different types of items.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method of interrogating RFID tags associated with items of interest, comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting at least one category of items and specifying one or more attributes associated with the selected category using a user interface associated with an RFID reader;
- (b) after selecting the category, interrogating RFID tags associated with items using the RFID reader, at least one of which is within the category of items;
- (c) using the RFID reader, categorizing information related to at least one item(s) associated with the interrogated RFID tag(s) in at least one of the categories for those items having the attributes specified for the selected category; and
- (d) ignoring any RFID-tagged-item that may not be categorized in any of the categories without listing or categorizing those items that do not have the attributes specified for the selected category,

wherein in steps (c) and (d) the RFID reader determines which of the RFID-tagged-items may be categorized and which of the RFID-tagged-items may not be categorized in any of the categories.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the method further includes the step of:

- (e) saving the categorized information in a database.

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Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein at least one category describes items of a certain type.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the RFID reader determines whether to categorize or ignore each RFID-tagged item based on information obtained from the RFID tag itself.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the RFID reader determines whether to categorize or ignore each RFID-tagged item based on information obtained from a database stored in memory of the RFID reader.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein the database is stored on a removable data storage device.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the removable data storage device is a flash memory card.

Claims 25-102 (Canceled).